

REMARKS

Claims 13-16 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 13-16 presently stand rejected.

The Examiner has not returned the initialed PTO/SB/08 filed with the Information Disclosure Statement on August 29, 2003. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner return the initialed form with the next office action.

Claims 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagao et al. (JP 2000-331341). For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests favorable disposition of the application.

Argument

In regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended the claims as set forth above to overcome the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

In regard to the prior art rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection at least because the asserted prior art reference to Nagao et al. fails to teach or suggest the methods as recited in independent claims 13 and 15. Specifically, Nagao et al. does not disclose transferring data from a magnetic transfer master medium to a slave medium after a surface of the magnetic transfer master medium has been ground.

That is, the asserted prior art reference, Nagao et al., does not disclose transferring data from a magnetic transfer master medium to a slave medium after a surface of the magnetic transfer master medium has been ground subsequent to the master medium being manufactured,

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as recited in claims 13 and 14. Furthermore, the prior art reference does not disclose transferring data from a magnetic transfer master medium to a slave medium after a surface of the magnetic transfer master medium has been ground after the master medium has already transferred data to another slave medium, as recited in claims 15 and 16.

For at least the above reasons, Nagao et al. does not anticipate any of claims 13-16 and the rejection thereto should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is believed to be in form for immediate allowance with claims **13-16**, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to **contact the undersigned** at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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